

THE LEISURE HOUR.

BEHOLD IN THESE WHAT LEISURE HOURS DEMAND,
AMUSEMENT AND TRUE KNOWLEDGE HAND IN HAND.—*Cowper.*



"PAY ME IN CASH," SAID MR. CHAFFIN, "AND I MAY PERHAPS AGREE TO IT."

STRAIGHT TO THE MARK.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "BOY AND MAN," "LOMBARDY COURT," ETC.

CHAPTER XLV.—A COMPROMISE.

He told him forth the good red gold,
He told it forth with muckle din;
"The gold is thine, the land is mine,
And now I'm again the Lord of Linne."

—*Old Ballad.*

MR. STRAFFORD had many consultations with his solicitor, Mr. Trimmer, before they could come to a decision as to the steps which should be

taken "*re* Dean and Chaffin." The only thing that Mr. Trimmer seemed to be sure about was that the case was "worth trying." The issue, to be sure, would be very doubtful; it would depend upon the view taken of the testator's intention. Unfortunately the will was not very carefully worded; it had been modelled upon a previous will of the testator's father, and had not been drawn up by a professional man. It was such a pity, Mr. Trimmer said, that people would make their own wills. Mr. Chaffin would no

No. 1458.—DECEMBER 6, 1879.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

doubt spare no cost to maintain what he conceived to be his rights; but it need not be a very expensive affair; if Mr. Strafford were willing to go on with it, Mr. Trimmer would do his best to carry him through; and he could only say, as he had said before, that it was worth trying.

Mr. Strafford was not afraid of the expense. Tom had begged him to do what he could for Mr. Dean, and had told him of his own encounter with young Chaffin, to which possibly the contractor's oppressive conduct in the matter of the shipyard and house might be indirectly attributed. It was sufficient, at all events, to enlist the old squire's sympathies on Dean's side, and against Chaffin, more strongly than before; and he was resolved to leave no means untried to see Tom's friend righted. But, on the other hand, he did not wish for Tom's friend to be exposed, and his failings proclaimed to all the world, as must be the case if the matter were taken into court. He did not like the idea of seeing the honest shipwright compelled, under cross-examination, to confess how, in a state of inebriety, he had signed away his birthright, and turned his aged mother out of house and home. The man had pledged himself to shrink from nothing that might be necessary, and he knew that he could trust him; but he wanted to spare him the shame and degradation of being bullied by counsel in open court after he had repented so bitterly of his fault, and had fortified himself by total and resolute abstinence ever since against a repetition of the evil which had led to it. He proposed, therefore, to make an appeal to Mr. Chaffin, in the first instance, and to see whether the business could not be settled by an amicable arrangement.

Mr. Trimmer did not expect for a moment that anything could come of it; but said of this also that it was "worth trying," and agreed to accompany Mr. Strafford to the contractor's office to make the experiment.

"We had better have Dean up, in order that if anything should come of it, we may strike while the iron is hot," said the lawyer. "Nothing like fixing a man when you have got him. I don't think we shall catch Mr. Chaffin; but Dean must come up and be at hand."

Dean was sent for accordingly, and went with Mr. Strafford and the solicitor to wait on Mr. Chaffin by appointment. He seemed surprised when Mr. Trimmer, who had sent in his own name only, introduced his clients.

"If I had known," he said, "what was to be the nature of your business, I would have referred you to my solicitor. It is useless for us to go into it. I have told Mr. Dean repeatedly that I can't entertain his proposal. It is only wasting your time and mine to talk about it."

"We are not come to you professionally, Mr. Chaffin," said Trimmer. "I have a strong opinion of my own, of course, as to the merits of the case, but I do not intend to trouble you with that. We want to avoid trouble and expense and legal proceedings."

"I am not particular about the expense," said Chaffin, "and the law is on my side."

"It is impossible to say on which side the law is until the case has been tried, and I am quite of opinion that it is worth trying. I shall not tell you what I think about it, but your conveyance, I feel sure, will not hold water. A Court of Chancery would set it aside; but I shall say nothing about that. Mrs.

Dean, the widow, has a lien upon the property, as the will clearly shows; but I won't refer to that. You would lose your purchase and your money too if you were to go into court; but that I won't touch upon. Our object is, as I said before, to come to a friendly understanding."

"You mean to say, then," said Chaffin, "that your client here has sold me what was not his to sell?"

"Inadvertently, my dear sir; inadvertently."

"A man who sells what does not belong to him would hardly like, I should think, to stand up in court and say what he has done."

"Inadvertently, Mr. Chaffin; by mistake and for want of a proper understanding."

"Why could he not understand?"

"You know why, Mr. Chaffin," said Dean, stoutly; "you know as well as any man."

"I don't," said Chaffin; "it's not my place to know. I only know that I have your conveyances written down—in black and white."

"I'll tell you then," said Dean; "I was fuddled. I had been drinking week after week, more shame for me. I was half intoxicated when I signed the agreement."

"Is that your plea? Is that what you are going into court with? I don't envy you. I never was intoxicated in my life, and should not like any one to say I was; much less to publish it in court, with my own lips."

"That is not our plea," said Mr. Trimmer, interrupting his client, who was about to reply; "but if it were, I assure you we should not shrink from the consequences."

"No," said Dean, firmly.

"But it is not our plea. Our plea is that Dean had no power to sell this property."

"If a man sells what is not his own, he must take the consequences. What do they call such fellows at the Old Bailey?"

"And what do they call a man who buys under such circumstances, knowing all about it?" Dean interrupted.

"Never mind that," said the contractor. "I am all right. I am not afraid about myself; but you would cut a poor figure in a court of justice."

"I know it," said Dean; "but I mean to stand there all the same. I shall tell the truth word for word, from beginning to end; yes sir, I will if I never look an honest man in the face again."

"There is no accounting for tastes," said Chaffin; "but what is the object of all this? I am busy; always am; I can't spare time for idle talk."

"We want you to take a friendly view of the case," said Mr. Trimmer; "to make a compromise."

"I wish I had never seen the property," said Chaffin; "but now I have got it I shall keep it."

"It will never do you any good, you may be sure," said Trimmer; "it was a bad investment."

Mr. Trimmer had never seen it, but he thought he could not do any harm in saying this; he might have remembered that neither was it likely to do any good.

"But you see," he continued, "my client has a romantic attachment to the place. You gain nothing, Mr. Chaffin, by keeping it; while he loses everything. Cancel the sale, my dear sir, and save all further trouble."

"What do you mean by 'cancelling'?"

"Take the money back, and give him the property."

Mr. Chaffin made difficulties, but he did not repudiate the idea as strongly as it had been feared he would do. To tell the truth, he had lost confidence in the Sandy Frith Company, and would not have been sorry to put an end to his connection with it altogether.

"Where's the money to come from," he asked, "if I were willing?"

Dean had brought it with him, and, to Mr. Chaffin's surprise, took a roll of bank-notes from his pocket. He would pay in cash, he said, all that he had received in cash. The greater part of the purchase money had been given him in bonds of the company; these also he had with him, and would return.

"I thought so," said Chaffin. "Those bonds were worth something when I handed them to you. Nobody knows what their value is now. I don't want them, at any rate; I have too many already. Pay me in cash, and I may, perhaps, agree to it."

"I can't," said Dean; "not till I have sold the bonds, at all events. You persuaded me to take them, Mr. Chaffin; you said they were of more value than Bank of England notes."

"So they were at that time. But what is the use of talking? Give me cash, and I'll settle with you now, this minute. There's the conveyance," he said, taking it from a tin box and throwing it upon the table. "Give me the full amount in cash, and you may do what you like with it."

To his great surprise, Mr. Strafford, who had remained in the background hitherto, stepped forward, and taking up the paper, put it in his pocket, and then drawing forth a packet of bank-notes, with which he had come provided, placed the money on the table, and bade Mr. Chaffin count it.

"I'll buy your shares," he said to Dean; "you can transfer them to me. I'll give you par for them."

Mr. Trimmer was very much shocked at the summary way in which the business had been settled. It would not do at all, he said; there must be a proper deed, with stamps, and all duly executed. Conveyances could not be made and unmade in that summary manner. He would see that everything was properly done; and in the meantime the money should not have been paid; a deposit would have been sufficient. Mr. Chaffin also seemed to be rather taken aback. He wanted to know who Mr. Strafford was, and why he had interfered; but upon being satisfied that he had not himself any design upon the property, and that he had only acted out of friendship to Dean, he agreed to let the matter be as arranged. He had made his offer, and it had been accepted in the presence of witnesses, and he could not have retracted if he would. On the whole, he was not sorry to see the money back again, and looked upon Mr. Strafford as the latest instance of an old proverb, which was often upon his own lips, "A fool and his money are soon parted."

Joshua Dean could scarcely believe his good fortune as he left Chaffin's office and followed Mr. Strafford and his solicitor through the streets. His heart was swelling with gratitude, which he longed to express by word of mouth to his benefactor. As soon as they were alone in Mr. Trimmer's room he stepped up to the old squire and said:

"I'll redeem those bonds from you, sir, if you'll give me time. What you have paid for them I'll pay again, sooner or later. I can never pay my debt, though, for your help to-day, and I don't want

to. I shall remember it all my life, Mr. Strafford. You have made me an honest man again. Thank God for it. I must thank Him first for putting it into your heart to do it. Thank God, then; and thank you, too, sir. An honest man again I am before the wor-rld!"

"Shake hands, then, Dean!" said the squire; and they did so. It was a very hearty grip on both sides. Mr. Strafford's thin old hand shrivelled up in the pressure of the shipbuilder's broad palm, and he could not help wincing; but he did not complain.

CHAPTER XLVI.—A STORMY MEETING.

Fortune . . . turn thy wheel!—*Shakespeare.*

THE meeting of the Sandy Frith Improvement and Investment Society, Limited, to which Louis Darville and many other shareholders were looking forward with anxiety, was called, as it happened, for the day following that on which Mr. Strafford concluded his bargain with Chaffin in the summary and unprofessional manner described in our last chapter. It was held in a large new room or hall, built upon the site of what had once been known as Walebone's. Walebone had been, it was supposed, the original proprietor of the coffee-house called after his name, but that was not in the recollection of any of those who frequented the new building. Speculation had assumed a wider range, bolder proportions, and a more elastic form altogether since the days of Walebone, and a coffee-house, however spacious, was quite inadequate to receive a body of shareholders, or to represent the interests concerned. Walebone's had been purchased, therefore, by a company, formed for the purpose, and a palatial edifice was rising in its place under the auspices of Mr. Chaffin. The great hall was at the back of the premises, with committee rooms adjoining, and could only be approached through a narrow passage, protected by hoarding overhead, the frontage, with its range of chambers and offices, being yet unfinished.

In one of these committee-rooms a meeting of directors is being held preliminary to the meeting of shareholders. Mr. Header, the chairman, Mr. Stride, the secretary, Mr. Oakenshore, Mr. Glim, and others are in attendance, looking nervous and out of sorts, for they have not a good report to give, and they want to make a further call, which they know very well will not be agreeable to the shareholders. It has to be done, however, or the company must bring its operations to an end. They are used to this sort of thing, most of them being directors of two or three other companies. They are so described in the prospectuses, as if that were a great recommendation and an inducement to the public to trust them. Their hands being so full of business, they must, of course, know what business is. Having a million or two of public money to look after already, they must be the better able to look after the subscriptions invited to a new company. Of course, the several companies with whose concerns these gentlemen are credited are supposed to be in a flourishing state, or they would not be paraded in the advertisements. There may be others in the background in which they have a hand which have not done justice to the skill and care of their promoters, but these, of course, are equally not mentioned.

There is a great deal of excitement among the directors, as their number is increased from time to time by fresh arrivals, and they walk about the committee-room talking and gesticulating to each other.

"How is it," Mr. Oakenshore asks, "that water is to be had in abundance upon that particular little bit of freehold which Mr. Chaffin has managed to purchase, and nowhere else on the whole estate?"

"How is it," Mr. Oram inquires, "that Mr. Chaffin was allowed to become the owner of that property, which undoubtedly ought to have been secured to the company?"

"How does it happen," Mr. Glim wants to know, "that the question of water-supply was not inquired into before the company expended so much money upon the estate?"

Everybody wants to know something, and nobody seems to be able or inclined to gratify the general curiosity. Everybody can ask questions, and nobody can answer them. They do not know how it is, or why it is, or where it is, or what will be the end of it. One thing they all know, and that is that there are some long bills to pay and no money to pay them with. There are plenty of shares which might be issued, but the public will not take them up; and they have extensive "borrowing powers," which is rather a misnomer in the present instance, because they are not able to make anybody lend, and two parties at least are necessary for a loan or a quarrel. The chairman at length takes his place at the head of a long table, and the directors draw their heavy, well-stuffed chairs to the board and wait to hear what he is going to say. There is a liberal supply of paper—foolscap chiefly—placed before each chair, with foolscap envelopes to match; substantial ink-glasses, goose-quills of the largest "barrels," heavy ivory paper-knives, sealing-wax, red tape, everything in fact that it can be convenient for a director to use or for a stationer to supply, and everything of the most respectable kind; everything sound and substantial—more so, a great deal, than the company by and for whom they are provided.

The chairman commenced proceedings with some formalities essential to the occasion, and the secretary was invited to run over the heads of the report, which was to be read at full length to the meeting.

"I want to know," cried Mr. Oakenshore before many sentences had been read—

"Order, gentlemen; order!"

"I wish to be informed," cried Mr. Oram—

"Order, gentlemen; order!"

"I beg to suggest," said Mr. Glim—

"One at a time, gentlemen, if you please; and if you will allow our secretary to give you the heads of the report before offering any remarks it will be much more satisfactory."

They waited with evident impatience while Mr. Stride went on, but the result was not such as the chairman had predicted. Instead of being more satisfactory it seemed to be less so; and when at the conclusion the necessity of a further call was announced, there was a general expression of dissent. All their talking, however, came to nothing. The hour arrived at length at which they must appear in the great hall and give account of their doings before the shareholders, and with a general conviction that they must make the best of it, the chairman led the way, and the other directors followed him.

It was not a large meeting; but in noise and excitement it made up for what was wanting in numbers. All went well until the report was nearly concluded. Several "oh's" were heard as it went on, and many grunts and other signals of discontent; and as soon as the concluding words, in which the necessity for a

further call was announced, had been uttered, a storm of questions and remarks arose, as in the committee-room, two or three or more indignant shareholders speaking at the same moment.

"It's all going out and no coming in," cried one.

"There's no end to it," said another; "it's like pouring water into a sieve."

"Only there is no water to pour," a third rejoined.

"We had better go into liquidation at once," said a shareholder who had not a heavy stake in the company.

"Liquidation!" cried another, who probably had less. "Where's the 'liquid' to come from?" (A laugh.)

"Gentlemen, if you please!" cried the chairman, in a voice at once reproachful and pathetic.

At length a speaker, in whom the shareholders seemed to have some confidence, got upon his legs and begged to be allowed to move a resolution. The meeting was silent, and listened to him with only a few interruptions while he placed before them three alternatives, which, as he said, were the only practical methods open to them; either to make a fresh call (No, no, no), or to wind up the company (Shame, shame), or to begin *de novo*, with an entirely new directorate and a new issue of shares. The last proposition met with as little favour as the two former.

"It was a pity they had ever begun at all," was said on every side; "and as for new shares, nobody would be found to take them up at any price. A call would be useless; nobody would answer it; and as for liquidation, it would be soon enough when forced upon them."

Another speaker then rose and counselled patience. "The scheme had all the elements of success," he said—

A voice—"All the elements except water!"

"He still hoped it would turn out well—"

Another voice—"A well without water!"

"His hopes were not to be damped—"

A third voice—"No fear of that."

"Chair, chair!" from two or three quarters at once.

"Really, gentlemen, really—" from the chairman.

"Order, order, order!" from all sides, and a general disturbance at the same time.

At this crisis, a stout, burly-looking man appeared upon the platform.

"Chaffin, Chaffin!" was now the cry; "silence! let's hear what Chaffin has to say."

There was a lull at once; not a calm exactly, but as when a cloud lowers over the deep before a storm breaks forth. Chaffin pushed his way to the front, regardless of the mingled cheers and groans with which his first appearance had been greeted. He was evidently prepared to address the meeting, and the meeting had at last found some one who could, they hoped, tell them something.

Mr. Chaffin "had already made his report," he said; "but he was there to answer questions, if they had any to ask. He did not want any more money from them—(hear, hear!)—unless they were willing to trust him with it. (No, no.) They had a fine property, and a valuable property, whatever they might think about it; but it was not necessary to spend any more money upon it—(hear, hear!)—unless they liked. (No, no.) He had been charged with

disregarding the company's interests, and taking care of his own—(hear, hear!)—but he could hurl that reproach back at his accusers. (No, no.)"

A voice—"How about the shipyard?"

"He was coming to that. They had been quite mistaken about the value of that property; it was not a desirable purchase for anybody, and the company was better without it."

A voice—"That's why you keep it to yourself, then?"

"Hear, hear, hear!" and "Shame!" from many quarters.

Mr. Chaffin waited, with a look of injured innocence, till they were again silent, and then went on.

"They would be surprised to hear it," he said, "but he had washed his hands of that business altogether. If the company wanted the property they might have it—for him. They could go and treat for it as soon as they liked. He had cancelled the purchase; he had gained nothing by it—not a penny. Dean's house and shipyard was Dean's house and shipyard still. He hoped now that he had heard the last of that matter."

Sensation, hesitation, confusion, and at length applause!

"He would serve the company regardless of his own interests, or not at all," he went on. "No man should again reproach him for seeking his own advantage; though he supposed he had a right to take care of himself, as well as other people. He had another piece of news for them. The company's shares were rising in value. Parties had been seen at Sandy Frith who knew what was what, and they had come up to London to do something. Only yesterday shares had changed hands in his office. Not his own shares; no, he did not mean to part with any of his; but a large purchase had been made by a capitalist, who had been to Sandy Frith to look at it."

"What price?"

"A fair price; he would not say a particularly good price, but a fair price, considering that lately there had been no market."

"Name! Name!"

"He was not sure whether, in the interests of the company, he ought to state particulars on that platform."

"Oh! oh!" and ironical cheers.

"The chairman should decide."

Mr. Chaffin dotted down a few figures and gave them to the chairman, who almost sprang out of his seat as soon as he had read them, and stood, with looks of amazement and delight, waiting to address the meeting.

"Name! name! What's the quotation? What's the figure?" from many voices.

"Par," said the chairman. "Par," he repeated, in the midst of a dead silence; "a large transfer at par."

There was a burst of cheering. One or two of the knowing ones looked at each other, suspecting that the whole affair was a ruse to pacify the meeting and to promote another "call;" but the more the transaction was inquired into the more it was seen to be genuine.

"Who is the buyer?" some one asked.

"Hear, hear! who is the buyer?" was repeated by many anxious voices.

Mr. Chaffin would be happy to give the name of

the buyer privately, after the meeting, to any *bond fide* shareholder who wanted to do business. There would be a great demand for shares soon, he expected, at par, or perhaps above it. Mr. Chaffin did not see why gentlemen should be surprised at such a quotation. They had been offering their shares at a discount, and had brought them by that means into discredit. He meant to hold his own, he could tell them; he should not sell his own at par. He was convinced they would soon be at a premium. If anybody wanted to sell, let them insist upon having full value for their bonds, and they would be sure to get it, sooner or later.

"Hear, hear, hear!" from many voices.

"I wish they *may* get it," from one of the knowing ones.

Before Mr. Chaffin, who, with the air of a virtuous and honourable man, had made his bow to the meeting, could sit down, a messenger appeared upon the platform making his way to the secretary. He handed a telegram to the latter, who, as soon as he had read it, handed it in an excited and hilarious manner to the chairman. Mr. Header read it hastily, and again rose to his feet with a bound, holding up his hand as if he were waving a hat to invite attention.

"Gentlemen!" he exclaimed.

"Silence! silence!" from many voices, which continued to shout long after other sounds were hushed.

"Gentlemen, our hopes are realised. The boring is successful; there is no longer any doubt that an ample supply of pure, good, wholesome, and delicious water is to be had at Sandy Frith."

This announcement was received with immense enthusiasm. The knowing ones could understand now how it was that capitalists who had been at Sandy Frith were anxious to buy up shares; of course they had seen how matters stood, and knew that water was being approached. Shareholders, who had been ready almost to throw their bonds behind the fire, now buttoned up their coats tightly, as if afraid of having their pockets picked. It was a long time before silence could be restored. One or two resolutions were then passed expressive of confidence in the directors; votes of thanks, compliments, and congratulations were exchanged; the important call was voted without difficulty; and then the meeting broke up into little knots, which made their way out of the room chattering and laughing, and in a state of high good humour.

Louis Darville, standing near the door, scarcely able yet to believe his senses, and fearing lest the good news should presently be qualified or contradicted, and the hope which had sprung up in his heart be dashed to the ground, could overhear what the elated shareholders were saying to one another as they passed him.

"I shall hold on," said one.

"I won't sell a bond," said another.

"I would rather buy more," said a third. "I always said it would turn out well. Fortunes will be made at Sandy Frith, and quickly, too. If any of you gentlemen want to realise, let me know."

Louis laid his hand upon the last speaker's arm. He knew him slightly. They withdrew together to a convenient spot, and there in a few minutes an offer was made him for his bonds and he accepted it. "It was a speculation," the other man said. "Nobody could tell yet what they would be worth—any-

thing or nothing—but he was in a speculating humour and would buy."

"I am not," said Louis, devoutly hoping that he should never be in such a humour again. "I want money. I am pressed for it, and will therefore sell."

So they came to terms. Louis Darville went out into the street a new man. Like Joshua Dean a day or two before, his heart was so light that he scarcely felt the pavement as he trod upon it. A great load was taken from him; he hardly knew how heavily he had been oppressed and burthened by it till it was removed; he could scarcely believe now that it was really gone. He could now square everything, take up his bills, and balance his accounts at the office. Even that had been beyond his power of late, and he had lived in fear of being detected and exposed as a defaulter. Never again would he speculate, never again hasten to be rich; above all, never, never more would he touch money that was not all his own. His bosom heaved as he walked along, and he turned his face to the wall, looking in, with eyes that could see nothing, at a shop-window, to hide his emotion from the passers-by, and then, calling a cab, for his head swam and he felt scarcely able to walk, drove to the counting-house.

LEGAL ANECDOTES.

VII.—JUDGES' LODGINGS, AND A JUDICIAL GHOST STORY.

IN every assize town of England and Wales there is a building which, though quiet and seemingly unimportant during the rest of the year, becomes a place of great interest, especially to the inhabitants of its locality, during the "Gaol Delivery" of the county in which it is situate. This building is called the "Judges' Lodgings," a title, by-the-by, which but poorly expresses the size and grandeur of many of the abodes to which it is attached, which are intended—and properly—to supply the comforts and accommodation of the homes of the high ministers of justice which have to be vacated during circuit life. These "Judges' Lodgings" may be divided into three classes. There are, first, edifices which have been built for many years—or even centuries—which are reserved especially for the accommodation of the sovereign's representatives at assize times; secondly, the residences of private individuals, whose owners quit them—for a tangible consideration—during the necessary period; and, thirdly, more or less beautiful suites of apartments, attached to the courts themselves, provided and furnished by the liberality of their respective counties.

The "Judges' Lodgings" of the last class have most of them sprung up in recent times, and the magnificent Palace of Justice at Manchester, and the smaller but still more beautiful building at Taunton, are admirable specimens of this class. The second description—the private houses—though frequently spacious and comfortable, are least appreciated, especially in the Principality, although far superior to what such places must have been in times gone by. In a small Welsh guide in our possession, under date of 1734, we find a presentment made by the Grand Jury of Beaumaris, that the "Judges' Lodgings" of that town "ought to be improved," and the curious facts are stated that such lodgings are so "poore and straight, that the judge eateth and sleepeth in rooms with earth floors, where fowls and

other unseemly things do congregate, and noteth his arrival in the town by a flag fixed to a prop, which is pushed up through the chimney of the house." In the *ms. journal of Justice Rokeby*, of the time of William III., many similar complaints are made of the state of the English lodgings in which that learned judge was installed during his circuit, the upper rooms of drapers' and bakers' houses being frequently the only places reserved for himself and officers.

The first order of lodgings are by far the noblest with which we are acquainted, and from their antiquity and grandeur, as well as from their many historical associations, possess the greatest claim upon our attention.

Of these edifices, the most remarkable are the "Judges' Lodgings" at Durham, which consist, and have for ages consisted, of the state apartments of the castle of the palatine bishops of that wonderful old city, a building dating from 1072, when it was erected by William the Conqueror, and of which many parts remain quite unaltered. For many hundred years the bishop himself, who was also Count Palatine of Durham, possessed of royal power, remained in the castle with the judges, as their host, and sat daily at their right-hand side upon the bench in court, and at times, by virtue of his sovereign power, remitted the sentence upon malefactors—even when a capital one—when just pronounced by the justices! This sovereign power, however, was removed during the present century by a statute of William IV., and the bishops of later date have fixed their abode at Bishops Auckland, leaving the judges of assize alone to inhabit their feudal dwelling in solitary grandeur, surrounded by memorials of the past—tapestried hangings, ancient portraits, the coffin of St. Cuthbert lying at their kitchen door, and gloomy ghostly passages, covered with rush matting, leading to their still more gloomy and ghostly bed-chambers.

Winchester boasts also of an ancient "Judges' Lodgings" of this sort, although far more modern than that of Durham. It is a large and handsome red-brick building, constructed by Charles II. as a residence for Louise de Querouaille, his fair and frail French beauty, sent over by Louis XIV., and whom he chose to have living near him while he was building in the old Saxon city his new "Palace of Winton," abandoned by his successors, and now in its unfinished state converted into one of the finest barracks in the kingdom.

Somewhat uninteresting in its external appearance and internal economy, the Winchester Lodging is wonderfully suggestive of the dissimilar purposes to which an ancient dwelling may be appropriated. At first the abode of such scenes of gaiety, frivolity, and licentiousness as the reign of "the Merry Monarch" could alone tolerate, it became at his death the dwelling of the judges of assize, and doubtless witnessed the orgies of Jefferys and other judicial fiends employed by James II. Almost in our own times within its walls occurred the solemn business described by the late Baron Alderton, when sent down as a Special Commissioner to try the agricultural rioters in Hampshire: "We met after dinner in the large lower room of the old lodgings, my two brother judges and myself, with the duke (the late Iron Duke) at the head of the table, and went through the list of the poor wretches we had sentenced to death during the assize. We deliberated long and carefully over the merits of each case, and

the degree of each culprit's guilt, putting our initials against the names of those recommended to the royal mercy, and leaving the rest for execution. A solemn and awful work," concludes the good baron; one, however, which contrasts well with the careless and hasty ferocity of their predecessor Jefferys, who, at a former assize in this same city, condemned to be burnt alive on the afternoon of her trial the saintly Alice Lisle.

Lancaster has a fine old "Judges' Lodgings," a cold grey stone building, which has for 200 years kept watch over the neighbourhood below. For many years after it was built the County Palatine of Lancaster had known no assize divisions of Salford and West Derby, with Manchester and Liverpool as their seats of justice, and Lancaster itself was the circuit town for the whole county, with a cause list of frequently 300 causes, beside some 150 or 200 prisoners to be tried! The old lodgings were for three weeks or more a scene of business as well as festivity at other periods of the year unknown. Solicitors engaged in the causes to be tried attended by crowds to get summonses disposed of by the judge before the Courts sat in the morning, and were invited as guests to the dinner-table of the judges' clerks in the evening; and a time-honoured member of the judges' official staff, still living, tells us of the "Lord of the Assize" making his appearance during one of these symposia, which had been carried on to an early hour of the morning, in his dressing-gown and slippers, and armed with a riding-whip, threatening with condign punishment the whole of the assembled bacchanalians for disturbing his accustomed rest.

Passing reluctantly over fine old judicial dwellings at Stafford, Leicester, Northampton; and Lincoln, where the judges lodge within the precincts of the ancient castle of John of Gaunt; Bury St. Edmunds, where every summer assize they sojourn in the beautiful old residence of the Marquises of Bristol of former days; and Cambridge, where Trinity College is still obliged to receive them with royal honours, under its Charter of Henry VIII, though successive masters have unsuccessfully attempted to oust them of their dwelling in the "Master's Lodge;"—we come to the quiet and aristocratic city of York, and with the "Judges' House," as it is there called, associate the strange incident alluded to in the heading of our short paper.

We do not know the date of the erection of the gloomy red-brick dwelling near "Bootham Bar," where the judges reside upon circuit, but it is of great antiquity, and was built for the accommodation of the "Justices of our lord the King" long before the more modern town of Leeds appropriated the greater part of the legal business of the county. It is, speaking from our own personal experience, one of the most uncomfortable, unaccommodating, and sombre buildings in which it was ever our chance to dwell, and when we add that its domestic arrangements are presided over by one of the kindest and stoutest women in our circle of acquaintance, we have said all we can say in its favour. There is a ghost story, however, connected with it, and as it happens to be the only ghostly reminiscence with which we have ever had any direct connection, we naturally take more interest in relating it.

It was upon a bitterly cold evening in November, 18—, we arrived officially in York; we had had a freezing ride from London, and looked forward with

pleasure to our warm sitting and bedroom at the old York lodgings. It was a Winter Assize, and we had no question to ask ourselves as to the comfort of our night's quarters, there being but one judge and his marshal, and all the rest of the dormitories at our disposal, to choose whichever we pleased.

On arriving, we found appropriated to our use a large and decently furnished apartment on the second floor immediately over the bedroom of the circuit judge. It was, we were informed, formerly the senior marshal's bedroom. There was nothing whatever peculiar about the room, except that it seemed rather hastily prepared for an occupant, and strangely enough, as it seemed to us at the time, although we knew the old house well, we had never been shown this particular bedroom; the maid who accompanied us upstairs informed us, however, that the apartment was very seldom used, and was only called into requisition now in consequence of part of the ceiling of the "proper room" having suddenly fallen in.

We thought little of the matter at the time, and after a wash, and luxuriating, as only a chilly individual after a long winter's journey can, before a blazing fire piled half up the chimney, we proceeded downstairs and entered into the discussion of a good dinner, our colleague being our only companion, and then, he having a bad cold, and being extremely averse to conversation under the circumstances, we pitied his condition, and at an early hour we both retired to our respective bedrooms.

Eleven o'clock, and we were snugly in bed, with candle carefully extinguished, and the flickering light of the fire alone illuminating the room. A little later, and we were fast asleep and dreaming of our home and young family far away in the south, all unconscious of assizes in general, and judges' lodgings in particular. Two a.m., and we were wide awake in bed, with heart thumping against the side 150 to the minute, and with a vague and undefinable terror possessing us. The fire was out, the room in black darkness, and the horrible sensation, known doubtless to many of our readers, came across us that there was some one besides ourself in it, near to us, a some one who had just left our bedside, and whose receding feet we heard moving very quietly and yet rapidly towards the door. At the same time a sudden sharp voice sounded apparently from the lower part of the house, a cry of "Henry, Henry," twice repeated, as of some one calling up the staircase. Again we heard the "paddle" of slipperless feet, now in the passage *outside* our room; then descending the staircase; then succeeded a murmuring sound as of two voices talking together, a scuffle, a loud, piercing shriek, and then a heavy stumbling back again upstairs, as of a wounded person feebly ascending: steps along the passage; steps approaching our room; steps *in* our room (though we had up to the time neither heard the door open nor shut); a heavy fall on the floor; and then—we became unconscious.

When we awoke—from sleep or fainting, we know not which—the first streaks of the wintry morning were piercing through our window curtains, an attendant in due time brought our hot water, and from between the sheets (for we had been far too much occupied with our troubled meditations to arise) we bade him enter. He turned the latch in vain, our door was fast locked as we remembered then to have left it the night before!

Our hostess appeared whilst we were at breakfast, for our colleague was still a sufferer from his cold, and breakfasted in bed, and, with a little tremor in her voice, hoped we had passed a "comfortable night." A moment's hesitation, and we told her all. She heard our ghostly experiences; there was a look of mingled vexation and alarm on her face as she fell into a seat and offered us all the explanation in her power. The room was *haunted*, of that there could be no doubt; it had never been occupied, to her certain knowledge, during the housekeepership of her predecessor or herself, extending over half a century, and the want of repair in the other room spoken of by her maid, together probably with some wish to test the truth of the ghostly tale, had determined her to appropriate it to the use of one of the officers of the present assize.

The tradition was (as she related it to us) that some 150 years before, a strange and sullen old bachelor judge had taken the York Assizes. He was accompanied round circuit by his nephew, who acted as his marshal, a young unmarried orphan gentleman of large expectations, whose immediate heir the old judge was. The judge's butler, sleeping in a room separated only by a thin wooden partition from that of his master, had been awakened in the night by the judge rising and walking in the neighbouring bedroom. He had heard the door open, and

the judge's voice calling to his nephew by his Christian name, "Henry," twice; he had also heard a door open above, steps descending the stairs, a struggle, a cry as of one in mortal pain, ascending footsteps, and a return of some one into the adjoining bedroom. In the morning (for the man was too frightened to alarm the household at the time), on attending to valet his lordship, he found him strangely nervous and disturbed, while his marshal, not appearing at the breakfast-table, was sought for in his chamber, and found lying on the floor curled up in death, with a deeply-inflicted knife-wound in his bosom. The matter was attempted to be explained as a case of suicide, and was hushed up with but little inquiry, inquests being rare in those days, and the judge himself being *ex-officio* principal coroner of the county, and taking the inquiry into his own hands; but for many assizes afterwards strange noises and appearances were said to be heard and seen in the fearful old room until it was locked up and disused, and not again occupied until our unfortunate advent to the city.

Such was the story—true or false we know not—told us. The nightly visitation we can vouch for, and what is quite as remarkable is, we had never previously heard a word about the mysterious occurrence until told us the following morning as we have related it.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY GEORGE BENNETT, M.D., F.L.S., AUTHOR OF "GATHERINGS OF A NATURALIST IN AUSTRALASIA."

IV.—PORT ADELAIDE—MOUNT LOFTY.

I RECEIVED from the Government a free railway pass during my stay in the colony. Among the excursions I made was one to Glenelg, which is distant half an hour by the railway, a small straggling township. The country we passed appeared to consist of good arable land, a large portion of which had been ploughed for grain or other crops for the next season. I walked on the long pier extending out to the sea, built of strong and massive timber, with a lighthouse at the end. It is at this place that the P. and O. Company's mail steamers call and land the mails and passengers for Adelaide. The railway offers great facilities for rapid and cheap transit; the great disadvantage is that in stormy weather communication with the shore is very difficult; as it is, the steamers have to lie a long distance out. The beach was covered with large masses of kelp, which from the quantity might or ought to be utilised for manure or other useful purposes. There are at this place some elegant private mansions, and it is a favourite resort for the citizens of Adelaide who wish to enjoy the sea-breezes during the intense heats of the summer.

Port Adelaide is a deep creek or arm of the sea running out of the Gulf of St. Vincent; it has low land on each side, and is reached by a tortuous channel, through beds of reeds and mangrove swamps; but the Mount Lofty range, a few miles distant, forms a noble background to the view. It has a bar entrance, and is about eight miles in length, but ships of five or six hundred to one thousand tons can pass over the bar. Formerly goods were conveyed from

the Port to Adelaide over an excellent road by drays, but the country being level, a railroad was made at comparatively little expense. The Port has now excellent wharves, stores, a town-hall, a custom-house, and broad streets kept in excellent order; the houses are as yet very scattered; but Port Adelaide is evidently increasing its commerce, and a number of steamers and sailing-ships were discharging and taking in cargo when I was there.

I observed in the fishmongers' shops at Adelaide that the Murray river cod was plentiful, and of various sizes. A supply is brought to the town twice every week in carts from the River Murray, where they are caught in abundance, varying in size from eight to fifteen, and even twenty-five pounds weight. They are by most persons preferred when not exceeding nine or ten pounds; the retail price was sixpence the pound. In April, 1875, it was stated in the "Albury Banner" that a Murray cod was caught by a fisherman at Bonegella which turned the scale at 113lb. In the shops were also the small freshwater lobsters caught in the water holes or freshwater ponds; they are excellent in curries. I have often seen them caught from the ponds about Yass, where the aborigines call them "Murugonan;" they burrow deep in the mud, but are readily captured by placing a bit of raw meat on a bent pin, when they are easily hauled up.

Another excursion was to the Burra Burra Mine. The country from Adelaide to the Burra (a distance of 100½ miles) consists of fine arable land, flat and undulating, which terminates in gradual

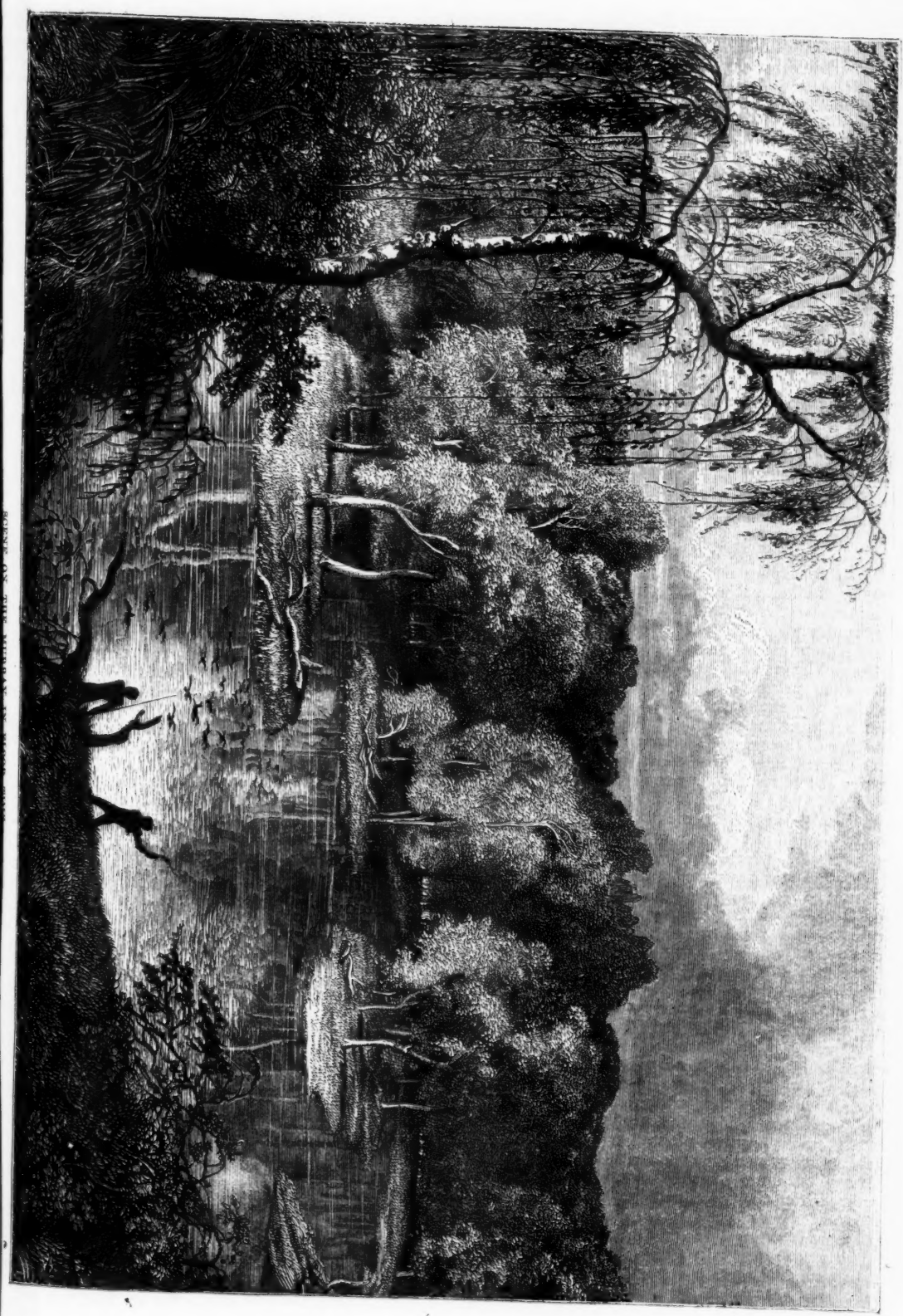
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sloping hills and ranges of mountains. This forms the great corn country of South Australia, extending for many miles beyond the line of railway. The harvest had not long been reaped; but some of the land was already getting ploughed for the next crop. The distant hills in many places had a very gradual slope, and appeared to consist of a soil capable of cultivation. As far as I could judge, a limestone and conglomerate formation prevailed. Trees were very scarce, and those I observed were *Frenella*, *Casuarina*, *Acacia*, and the Mallee, a small species of *Eucalyptus* (*E. dumosa*, Cunningham, *E. incrassata* of Labillardier); their large hollow roots are said to contain water even in the driest season of the year. Most of this corn country, I was told, consisted at one time of good soil. South Australia is a corn-growing country, with a most genial climate, and possesses thousands of acres of rich and productive land, producing wheat equal, if not superior, to any country in the world. The average quantity raised was from thirty to forty bushels to the acre, but from the inferior cultivation and the want of proper replenishment of the exhausted soil, the yield has diminished to fifteen and even less bushels. The number of acres under cultivation in 1874 was 80,000. In New South Wales the average is from nine to nineteen bushels, and in Victoria it is over fourteen bushels to the acre.

A fellow-passenger informed me that the grain is cut by the reaping machines; otherwise, from the scarcity of labour, it would be impossible to grow it at a remunerative price. The whole appearance of the country we passed through was rich and fertile, but the picturesque effect was deficient from the want of trees. The grasshoppers (*Gryllacris longa*, Walker) were seen springing about in great numbers; the weather was showery, and the combination of rain with hot weather is said to be favourable to the hatching of the eggs of these destructive insects.

The Burra Burra Mine is not by any means so productive as formerly, and by some persons it is said to be nearly, if not entirely, worked out. Some of the men I spoke to informed me that they were working on tribute, and at this time were engaged in washing the refuse ore, which appeared to result in the yield of large heaps of green carbonate of copper.

Mount Lofty was also a point of interest to me. I observed that hedges were formed in some places on the outskirts of Adelaide of the Kangaroo Island acacia (*Acacia armata*), which is not suitable for the purpose, as it readily ignites and burns with great rapidity. About the lower part of the road, as well as near the sea-coast, the *Nicotiana glauca* was very common, and for the most part seen in flower. We passed some thriving olive plantations. The olive-tree grows very well in and about Adelaide, and bears a large quantity of fruit, commencing when the trees are from eight to ten years old. It is planted in the gardens, the squares, and in some regular plantations devoted exclusively to its growth, which may be called "Olive Groves." A large quantity of oil has been lately expressed from the fruit at the gaol and other places.

From Mount Lofty and the high ranges to the eastward there is some grand and beautiful scenery. The road ascends gradually one of the spurs of the range, and at intervals a small wooden house has been erected, in the midst of a forest of *Eucalyptus rostrata* and stringy bark. The valuable *E. rostrata* can be transplanted when two years old, and grows

well. The size it may have attained at that age is immaterial as regards transplanting. In several places we passed in the ascent there are scenes around of surpassing beauty. Several of the views embrace a succession of gullies formed by the intersection of the abrupt hills on either side, some parts open, and others densely wooded by *Eucalyptus* and other forest trees. In some directions the bush fires had partially destroyed the beauty of the scene. At the bottom of these deep gorges a small serpentine stream winds along, on the slopes and borders of which small market gardens may be perceived like mere specks upon the surface; and the soil of the valleys, and even to the very summit of the ranges, is rich and fertile for cultivation.

The market gardens in the secluded glens supply the city of Adelaide with vegetables all the year round, and even strawberries and peas. Many watercourses have their source in the Mount Lofty range, and passing into these deep glens or ravines break into waterfalls over the hills and steep rocks when the stream is swollen by heavy rains; during the heat of the summer months the waters cease to run, but the course remains visible by the rank and luxuriant vegetation that arises within the influence of their moisture. In a garden which we visited I noticed a rosemary hedge kept cut down to a few feet high, and it was both useful and ornamental. I observe also that this shrub is very generally adopted as a hedge-plant both in this and the other colonies, and it may be planted for its economic value as in Europe. It is used for various purposes. Its Latin generic name is *Rosmarinus*, signifying sea-dew, but its habitat is not exclusively maritime. The flavour of the white Narbonne honey is said to be caused by the bees which produce it feeding on the flowers of the rosemary. The quantity of oil obtained from a hundredweight of the tops varies from eight to twenty-four ounces. A preparation of the dried leaves was formerly used as a substitute for Chinese tea, and was recommended in cases of headache. It is also used extensively both at weddings, funerals, and in Christmas festivities. The origin of strewing graves or corpses with rosemary, and carrying it to funerals for that purpose, is uncertain. It was probably thought a defence against pestilential diseases.

Higher on the road we passed another large garden, which contained thriving trees of sycamore, cork, walnut, chestnut, cherries, etc. The *Cryptogamia Japonica* was growing very well, and had produced seeds which had germinated, and several young plants had been reared; but this handsome tree does not grow well in the lower lands; the only fine tree we have been able to rear in Sydney has been one in the garden of Government House, which is now full 60 feet high. The cork-trees here were the few that had survived from those sent by Dr. Hooker to the colonies a few years ago, and they looked very healthy and well; they had also attained a good size. Hedges of laurel (*cerasus*) grew very luxuriantly.

For about a mile the road was excellent, and we passed several recently-erected residences, with gardens just recently laid out. But the land, with these few exceptions, remained in its primitive state, and was well wooded. Mount Lofty is at an elevation of about 2,370 feet above the level of the sea. The view we obtained was extensive and beautiful;

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the day being clear, we were enabled to have a good view of Mount Barker and the country in the vicinity, and could plainly discern the line of Lake Alexandria. Looking in another direction, Port Adelaide, the city of Adelaide, and the Gulf of St. Vincent were plainly discernible, and below us was an extensive range of high land, covered by a dense and luxuriant vegetation. In the gullies in the vicinity tree-ferns (*Todea Africana*?) were abundant. The Eucalypti observed were for the most part *E. rostrata* and stringy bark, and the trees were not of so great an elevation as of large diameter in the trunk. On the highest point of Mount Lofty there was an open shed with rude wooden seats.

A few days later I paid a visit to an old friend living at Kuratta. The view thence of Adelaide and the surrounding hills was very picturesque. The garden there contained several plants of great interest to me; several of these were from Western Australia: among them was the singular *Hakea*, *H. cucullata*, with coriaceous, glaucous, green concave leaves, and pink axillary flowers; it grows to about four or five feet high. The flowers are produced from the axils in copious clusters, at first surrounded by imbricated deciduous bracts. The young plants differ apparently from those of mature growth by the foliage being narrow, with thorny edges, rigid, and of a bluish-green colour. There was another species of *Hakea*, *H. Cyclopteris*, allied to *H. Stricta*, now called *H. Leucoptera*, with beautiful silvery foliage. I also observed *Grevillea intricata*, well named from its slender foliage becoming readily entangled, so much that it is almost impossible to disentangle or separate it without cutting portions of it off. There was also another species of *Grevillea*, the *G. leucoptera*; it resembles very much in growth a straggling pine. It has long, elegant, needle-formed, rigid, and silvery foliage. From a dense mass of the foliage, long, slender stems or spikes, several feet high, arise, on which a few scattered leaves are seen; on these the beautiful cream-coloured flowers are produced, having a lovely appearance and an agreeable fragrant odour. Both the species of the *Grevillea* were from King George's Sound.

I left for Port Adelaide the next afternoon to join the Aldinga steamer for Melbourne. I observed on the deck piles of cases of grapes for the Melbourne market, on which I was informed there was a duty of twopence the pound. Large flocks of gulls and cormorants were feeding on the extensive swamps at the entrance of the Yarra river.

The day after my return to Melbourne, Baron Von Mueller, the distinguished botanist, called, and we visited the Alfred Hospital, on the St. Kilda road, a handsome building in an excellent situation, and surrounded by ornamental trees and plants, which, by their foliage and bright rich colours, afford a refreshing spectacle to the convalescent patient. The arrangements of the interior were everything that could be desired. Close to and in the rear of the hospital are some fine buildings, one the Wesleyan College and others the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb Asylums, all of which are detached, and surrounded by spacious grounds tastefully planted. Among the trees, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, *Pinus insignis*, and the Aleppo pine (*Pinus helapensis*) were extensively planted, and appeared to be well suited to the climate. I afterwards called on the secretary of the Acclimatisation Society, and also Usher of the Black Rod to the Houses of Parliament.

He very kindly took me over the Houses of Parliament, and however defective in beauty the exterior may be, which can be accounted for by their having been left for some time in an unfinished state, I found the interior fitted up in a very elegant style. There is a very fine library. It is a curious fact that Queensland, the youngest of the Australian colonies, is the only one that has a House of Assembly, amidst all the magnificent public buildings, of any pretension.

The same day I left in the steamer Dandenong for Sydney, and cleared the Port Philip Heads by nine p.m. On the following day (May 1st) the weather was fine, and we passed very close to Clef Island, and not far distant from Seal Island, where we observed a number of seals on a sheltered ledge of rock, some basking in the sun, others waddling over the shelving rocks, or leaping into the water, while others again were returning from the sea. A number of petrels and other oceanic birds were mingled with them. We passed the lofty Rodondo Island and then Wilson's Promontory within the distance of half a mile, off which I observed a noble fishing-eagle, or white-breasted sea-eagle (*Haliastur leucosturnus*). It was soaring at a great elevation, rising and falling in the air, but for the most part remaining poised, as if on the look-out for its finny prey. We passed Waterloo Bay, with its background of densely wooded ranges. The next day we passed Gabo Island and Cape Howe, both low and sandy, with stunted shrubs; behind is the Dividing Range, separating the territory of Victoria from that of New South Wales. In the evening the wind increased, and on the third day we encountered a severe cyclone, which subsided by the following morning. On the evening of the 4th of May I again reached Sydney.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD

II.

THE regulations of the London School Board require that instruction in Scriptural subjects shall be given either first or last in the morning's work; and that children whose parents object to their receiving such teaching shall be withdrawn from it, and shall receive instruction in secular subjects during its continuance. This is in accordance with a provision of the Act of Parliament, 1870, made in the expectation that a considerable section of the lower classes would thus object, and would insist on withdrawing their children. How completely this expectation has been falsified has already been shown in these pages. As a further illustration, the writer of this article may mention that he visited Turin Street School, in the east end of London, about nine months after its opening; and the head master, who then had 700 children under him, stated that he had not had a single instance of a child being withdrawn from the Bible teaching. Before coming to Turin Street he was master of another Board school for fifteen months, and during that time enrolled 3,000 children, and one only was withdrawn.

In most schools under the Board, Biblical instruction occupies the half-hour between a quarter-past nine and a quarter to ten. At a quarter to ten the register is marked in black ink, which chronicles the late and the absent. This being done, secular work forthwith commences, and must be carried on for at

least two consecutive hours in the morning, and for the same period in the afternoon. The two hours in the forenoon are devoted, as a rule, to the more serious subjects; the lighter work, such as drawing, singing, needlework, and so forth, being reserved for the afternoon. In all Board Schools in London, whatever may be their peculiarities as to premises, general arrangements, number of scholars, and so on, the curriculum is substantially the same. It is, in fact, arranged partly by the Board and partly by the Education Department of the Privy Council, which holds out certain substantial payments for successful teaching in specified subjects, thus practically determining what subjects are to be adopted, the great work of the Board being to devise the means by which they may be most effectively taught.

As it was stated in a previous article, the infant schools are not subjected to examination; but, provided that the teaching is of a kind that the Government inspectors consider suitable for children under seven years of age, a sum of eight or ten shillings is granted by "the Department" for every child present at the time of the inspector's annual visit and who has made two hundred and fifty school attendances during the year. The secular subjects adopted in all infant schools are reading, writing, arithmetic, "object lessons of a simple character, with some such exercises of the hands and eyes as are given in the 'kinder garten' system," singing, and physical exercises, and sewing.

For those who are over seven years old a money grant is made only after an actual test of scholarship in subjects approved by the Privy Council and set forth in the "New Code." The most important of these are reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and geography, drawing, and music. Besides these are the "specific subjects" as they are termed, viz., English literature, mathematics, Latin, French, German, mechanics, animal physiology, history, and domestic economy. Taking the whole of these subjects which are thus approved by the Education Department, and by which grants of money may be earned, and making one or two minor additions to the list, the London School Board has divided them into "essential," "discretionary," and "extra" subjects. The essential secular studies in all schools above infants are reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar and composition, book-keeping, the history of England, geography, social economy, drawing, music, and drill. The regulations require also "systematised object-lessons, embracing in the six school years a course of elementary instruction in physical science, and serving as an introduction to the science examinations which are conducted by the Science and Art Department." The subjects here specified are deemed essential for all schools whether boys' or girls'. Book-keeping, however, is confined to the senior scholars. In girls' schools, plain needlework and cutting-out are added to the list, and senior boys are taught mensuration.

Discretionary subjects are domestic economy, algebra, and geometry. These, as well as "extra subjects," may be adopted or not, as local managers may think best, it being understood that no interference with the efficient teaching of essential subjects is to be permitted. Moreover, the lately-revised "New Code" lays down the rule that no Government grant shall be made for more than two "specific subjects," and that if any are taken, domestic economy must be one. The Board's extra subjects

are natural philosophy, physical geography, natural science, political economy, and languages.

Altogether, this list of subjects which may be taught in Board Schools has rather a formidable look about it. The ordinary class subjects, however, constituting the staple of the work, are the good old-fashion "three R's." For examination purposes, the department has set up in each of their branches six standards, which are elaborately set forth in the "New Code." In order to come up to the first standard in reading, a scholar must be able "to read a short paragraph from a book not confined to words of one syllable." In the second standard he must "read with intelligence a short paragraph from an elementary reading book." Then comes for standard three "a more advanced reading book." For standard four a pupil must read a few lines of poetry selected by the inspector, and must be prepared to recite seventy-five lines of poetry. Standard five requires the same thing to be done in better style; and to pass standard six there must be "reading with fluency and expression, and recitation of not less than fifty lines of prose, or 100 of poetry." Similarly in writing, the test ranges from copying in manuscript character a line of print, and writing a few common words in the first standard, up to a short theme or letter in the sixth. The first standard of arithmetic, again, requires simple addition and subtraction of four figures, and a knowledge of the multiplication table up to six times twelve, and from this the various grades work their way up through simple and compound long division, practice, bills of parcels, and proportion, to the sixth standard, when a scholar must be fairly proficient in proportion, and vulgar and decimal fractions.

For every scholar passing a standard in either of these subjects—reading, writing, and arithmetic—the Education Department of the Privy Council grants the sum of three shillings to the school funds.

These, with grammar and geography, are the fundamental subjects of School Board education, and the Board would have escaped a good deal of the criticism to which they have been exposed if they had confined their educational course pretty closely to those limits. Complaint has been very freely made that, instead of limiting their teaching to those indispensable branches of a plain education, they have soared away into subjects altogether beyond the necessities of the lower section of society. The object of these articles is rather to describe the work of the Board than to criticise or to defend it. It may be observed, however, that a good deal of misapprehension appears to exist as to the extent of this more pretentious work—the extent, that is to say, to which the higher subjects are taught, as well as with respect to the responsibility for such teaching. No school can take up one of these higher subjects until seventy-five per cent. of its members are in a satisfactory state as regards a "plain education." Even then only two "specific" subjects can be taken up, because more than two do not "pay," and of those two one of them must henceforth be of a pre-eminently homely and practical character—domestic economy. There are no statistics available for the purpose of showing the number of scholars throughout London who, at the present time, are receiving anything beyond the simplest education; but a return from all the schools a year or two back showed that by comparison with the great body of Board scholars that number was quite insignificant, and

the same undoubtedly would be the case now. Singing is taught by the Tonic sol-fa system in all the schools for two reasons. In the first place it is universally admitted to be very desirable, and in the next, *not* to teach it in any school reduces the Government grant by a shilling a head throughout. Drawing also is taught to all children above the first standard, both boys and girls, girls devoting an hour and a half and boys two hours every week to the subject, the complete course comprising freehand, perspective, geometrical and model drawing, and drawing from memory. In this a grant is made for every pass. These are the only two "essential" subjects which could afford any ground for the complaint alluded to, and both are strongly pressed upon the Board by pecuniary considerations which, not to them only but to local managers, teachers, and rate-payers, are matters of serious importance. At the present moment there is, we believe, no school in which German is taught. There are a few French classes and a few Latin classes. The commonest higher subjects are English literature, physical geography, and animal physiology.

To sum up upon this point, then, the matter stands thus. The great mass of the schooling given is of the plainest and simplest character, and with the exception of music and drawing, nothing beyond is, or can be, attempted till three parts of any school are well grounded in ordinary subjects. Music, drawing, and all other subjects of which complaint is made, are directly and strongly encouraged by Government, and some or the other of them *must* be taken up in order to earn grants and help to pay expenses. Lastly, these Government payments were instituted for just the class of schools which the Board has set up—for public elementary schools, that is—and for no other; and in adopting the subjects for which they are granted the London School Board is doing precisely the same as, to the best of their power, all other State-inspected schools are doing all over the country, and have been doing for a generation past.

Plain needlework is one of the subjects which have met with the greatest favour, not only of the public critics of the Board's proceedings, but also of parents and their children too. Her Majesty's inspectors are prepared to examine children in this department of schoolwork, and Government will make a grant of money, provided that, to adopt the words of the code, "it be taught according to a system previously approved by the inspector, who will judge it by specimens worked on the day of inspection." This is really a very extensive and important part of the work of this great school system, involving, of course, not only teaching, but the supply of materials to be operated on, and the disposal of articles made. Periodically the Board issue to the head teachers in the girls' schools a long printed list of materials, and the various requisites for making-up garments, such as thimbles, needles, scissors, bodkins, emery powder, pins, hooks and eyes, tapes, "flatteners," and numerous other implements. From this catalogue a stock is selected sufficient to last for four months, and of course the teacher selecting the goods is held responsible for their proper employment. Every pennyworth of the materials for making up has to be accounted for. The materials and implements being provided, the children are set to work for six standards just as in any other subject. Little ones in infant schools are put to thread needles, and to hem strips of calico or plain

pocket-handkerchiefs. That is the first standard. The second is devised for children of five to seven years of age or thereabout, and requires hemming, seaming or sewing, felling and fixing a hem. The next adds stitching, sewing on strings, and "fixing" simple articles, such as a pillow-case. The fourth standard leads up into the mysteries of button-holing, sewing on buttons, gathering, stroking, setting in gathers, marking, and plain darning—all in addition to previous acquirements. Standard five makes the further addition of whipping, tuck-running, sewing on frills, and is supposed to qualify the scholar to turn out "a night-dress with frills." The sixth standard requires a capability of cutting-out any plain garment and fixing it for a junior class; darning stockings in worsted or cotton; "Swiss or German darning;" grafting, darning fine linen or calico, and darning and patching fine diaper. In addition to the graduated exercises thus enumerated, children in standard two are taught knitting, and in standard five are expected to be able to turn out a good pair of long-ribbed stockings.

Three hours a week is the time devoted to this very practical branch of education in infant schools, and four hours in all other girls' schools. Articles made up are sold to the parents of children for just the cost of materials, and scholars have the privilege of bringing from home articles to be made up, patched, knitted, or darned under the teachers' direction, provided that they are scrupulously clean, and can be attended to without interfering with ordinary school matters.

Another branch of instruction to which the severest critic of the Board's proceedings could scarcely take exception is the cookery for girls, which it will be remembered *must* be taken if "specific subjects" be dabbled in at all. This has been adopted in nearly every girls' school under the Board, in the three upper standards—in the fourth, fifth, and sixth, that is to say—as a regular part of the education. The three standards mentioned comprise scholars of from about ten to thirteen years old, and according to the latest statements there were about 1,100 a week of these young housekeepers of the future going through a course of instruction, which certainly has rather a formidable appearance. Not only does the prescribed curriculum aim at imparting practical skill in cookery, but seeks to instil a knowledge of the sources, the nature and physiology of food, the way in which it nourishes the body, how to purchase it to advantage, what physical and chemical processes are involved in cooking, and to show the natural relation between food and health. Accordingly, we find the homely processes of boiling and frying, which constitute the subject of one of the lessons of the course, preceded by scientific instructions on "The stomach: its form and parts—its work, and how it performs it—its glands and juices, effect on fatty substances—chyme, action of the liver—effect of exercise on digestion—when it should not be taken;" and then comes the boiling and frying. In another lesson we have a dissertation on the change of chyle into blood, action of intestines, lacteals, mesenteric glands, corpuscles, and so on. Of course there is a great deal in connection with such matters as those which may, in the hands of a thoroughly competent clever teacher, be made profoundly interesting to children of ten to thirteen years of age; but the teacher ought to have not only a thorough familiarity with the subject, but great tact and skill in teaching. Without these

special qualifications there is danger of results such as one of the Board inspectors complains of in his report on another subject—very “learned” lectures, conveying very erroneous ideas on scientific matters. It may reasonably be questioned whether the theoretical teaching in connection with the cookery lessons is not a little too lofty in its aim.

However this may be, the practical outcome at all events is admirable. “Lesson number one, heart roasted in a saucepan; to make gravy; potatoes (baked.) Lesson two, steak pudding; potatoes (steamed.) Lesson three, tripe boiled with onions; potatoes (boiled.) Lesson four, Brazilian stew; greens (boiled.) Lesson five, liver and bacon; cauliflower (boiled.) Lesson six, steak pie; carrots (boiled.) Lesson seven, plum pudding (baked); quick beef-tea. Lesson eight, treacle pudding; toast-and-water. Lesson nine, Irish stew; lemonade. Lesson ten, hash; semolina pudding. Lesson eleven, to fry fish (plaice); barley-water. Lesson twelve, chop and steak (broiled); turnips (boiled).”

These are the practical aims of the cookery teaching, which will hardly fail to work a revolution in humble culinary affairs in London. Some twenty-five or twenty-six “centres” are to be established in such localities as will enable girls to be sent from all the schools for the purpose of seeing the teaching of the schoolroom practically illustrated, and trying their own hands at broiling steaks and boiling potatoes. Four of these centres have been temporarily set up in different parts, and one has been permanently established in connection with the school in Stephen Street, Lisson Grove. A light, commodious lecture-hall has been built, and fitted with such appliances as are absolutely necessary for demonstration and for practical cookery, great care being taken that everything shall, as far as possible, be done with just the ordinary utensils of the poor man’s kitchen. There is a lecture-table across one end of the room, and at the other raised seats for the children, who sit and watch what is done, and take their notes—very intelligently they do this too in many cases—and then come down and set to work at their puddings and stews. The manufactured article is sold at the cost price of the raw material, the children themselves being in many cases only too proud to buy and carry home their culinary triumphs.

The Act of Parliament which imposes on the Board the duty of providing school accommodation for all children not receiving proper instruction, made no exception in the case of those of them who were blind or deaf and dumb. These have had to be thought of, therefore, and among the most interesting features of this great work are the arrangements for the teaching of those afflicted little ones. In one very remarkable case a board of local managers found themselves called upon to take in a scholar who was blind and deaf and dumb. This appeared to be really a hopeless case, but even with this an attempt was made to deal. A young lady volunteered her services for the benefit of this hopeless little mortal, and her offer was accepted, but the attempt was found to be impracticable, and had to be abandoned.

With regard to the blind, great difficulties have been experienced in doing much for them, and fairly satisfactory arrangements have only just been completed. It has of course been impossible to get them together from distant parts of London, and all that it has hitherto been found practicable to do for them

has been to take them in as ordinary scholars, and to have a teacher to see them and give them instruction in reading from raised type as often as possible. The Board has, however, just improved on this arrangement by appointing a superintendent to take general oversight of all its blind pupils, who will henceforth be formed into classes and be taught by expert teachers, four of whom have been engaged as assistants to the superintendent. Each teacher will take a class for half a day and then move on to another class, leaving the first to amalgamate with the ordinary scholars and take such of their instruction as they are able. Moon’s system of printing has been hitherto largely used, but many of the books in use in the classes are being introduced in raised Roman type, and from these the blind can of course read with the rest of the children.

The case of the deaf and dumb is somewhat different from that of the blind. They can make their way through the streets as readily as other children, and the plan of getting them together at certain central points has been adopted. The first of these centres was instituted in September, 1874, when a class was opened for deaf mutes at the Wilmot Street School, Bethnal Green. The earlier efforts were made in what is known as the German System, by which some very surprising results have in many cases been attained in articulation and lip-reading. No doubt, to the great astonishment of parents and friends, the little unfortunates gathered together in Wilmot Street began to articulate words and to understand words pronounced to them by watching the lips of the speaker. Very soon, however, numbers began to increase, and ages and capacities were found to be so varied, that it was thought expedient to adopt a mixed system. Some were “deaf, not dumb,” some “dumb, not deaf,” and many were deaf and hopelessly dumb. Articulation and lip-reading were used in cases where they could be applied with practically useful results, but for the majority of the children the English, or double-handed alphabet was adopted, together with “natural signs” where absolutely necessary. Early in 1875 a second centre was opened for the north of London; later on, in the same year, another was instituted in the south; and the following year the same was done for the west. Altogether there are now about a hundred and fifty deaf mutes on the Board-school registers. There is something peculiarly touching in these little assemblies of children working together with the great throng of ordinary children—talking, reading aloud, reciting, and singing together—all of them under the same roof, yet isolated from them—teachers as well as scholars—by their pitiable affliction.

A class in the Grange Road School, Bermondsey, has recently been placed under the superintendence of Mr. Van Praagh, a prominent teacher of the oral system, by way of experiment, but all the other classes are under the management of the Rev. W. Stainer, who from the first has been indefatigable in the work, and to whom must be accredited the initiation of a very admirable supplementary scheme for the benefit of deaf mutes too young to be sent to and fro to school, or who live at long distances from any centre of instruction. Children, it should be observed, are admitted to the deaf mute classes of the Board Schools at a much earlier age than that at which they are admissible to any existing institution, and something in the nature of boarding-schools

were soon found to be very desirable. Of course the ratepayers' money could not be appropriated to anything of the kind, but an appeal has been made to the benevolent, and in the immediate vicinity of the schools have now been established, under the management of committees of ladies, houses in which children are provided with board and lodging from Monday till Friday, on payment of just about the cost of their maintenance. By this means not only are many enabled to attend the classes, who would otherwise be precluded, but they are also brought under home influences, peculiarly desirable to such afflicted ones.

One of the difficulties with which the Board had to contend from the outset of its career was that of dealing with the little savages of London owning allegiance to nobody, children beyond the control of parents, genuine waifs and wanderers, beggars, thieves or the associates of thieves. It is not easy to catch little bipeds of this description, and it is still less easy to keep them when caught. To secure their regular attendance at a day school is quite impossible. With a view to their management the Industrial Schools Act was incorporated with the Act that set the School Board in motion, and by means of it the officers of the Board are empowered to apprehend these urchins and take them before a magistrate, who may, if he think it desirable, give a warrant for their removal to an industrial school, at the same time making an order on the parents or guardians of the child for some payment towards their maintenance. The energy of the officials entrusted with this duty soon filled to overflowing the industrial schools in the vicinity of London, and the captives had to be sent to institutions in different parts of the kingdom. At length the Board found it necessary to set up an establishment of their own. They accordingly rented, at Brentwood, in Essex, a house which was originally built for the purposes of a first-rate boarding-school. The writer visited this school a year or two back, and certainly found it difficult to recognise the shock-headed little ragamuffins, the match boys and beggars, the uncontrollable little outcasts, the thieves and associates of thieves of the London slums. The house stands in an acre of ground and has the appearance of being a highly respectable "establishment for young gentlemen." Boys are taken here at any age from six to thirteen, and may be kept till they are sixteen. There were a hundred of them in the place, all neatly uniformed, all clean and apparently happy and comfortable. Every boy devotes five hours daily to some useful occupation. Some become gardeners, some tailors, some shoemakers, and all take their turn in the multifarious work in the house, even to such matters as washing clothes and mending socks. Three hours a day are devoted to schooling in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, history, geography, and music.

The latest developments of the industrial branch of School Board functions are the purchase of the Shaftesbury training-ship, where boys are sent to learn seamanship just as they are sent to Brentwood to learn a trade, and the "truant school" at Homerton. This latter establishment has at the present moment, we believe, some sixty inmates. They are boys who cannot be got to attend school regularly, and are beyond the control of parents or friends, but who are yet not precisely fit subjects for permanent consignment to a training-ship or an industrial school. They are, however, sent here and kept for such short

periods as are deemed suited to their individual cases, under very stringent control, just by way of impressing upon them that, though they may defy the authority of parents and guardians, British law cannot be quite so easily set at naught, and may, if they persist in playing truant from school, prove more than a match for them.

That this institution is one which, under efficient and conscientious management, is calculated to do good service—that it is, indeed, an indispensable adjunct of the system if the task imposed upon the Board is to be completely fulfilled—few impartial judges will deny. A somewhat unfortunate start seems to have been made, however. It was necessary that the government of the place should be very firm, and perhaps even stern. But it has been alleged that the Board's officers have gone beyond what was necessary in this direction, and the appointment of a committee of inquiry, and a consequent change of officers, have been found requisite. This will probably have restored public confidence in the Homerton Truant School, which has unquestionably exerted a very salutary influence, and has been the means of averting the necessity for consignment to the more permanent control of the Shaftesbury or Brentwood.

GEORGE F. MILLIN.

NATURAL HISTORY ANECDOTES.

A FORGETFUL CAT.

I HAVE a cat who is most refined and ladylike, yet full of courage, fire, and affection. She takes great interest in all the concerns of our household, and is ever ready to give me a kiss when I ask her. *She* knows when I and the other ladies of the family are going to dine out, though no one tells her, and she comes up (as do also her child and grandchild) to see us dress. But it is not of this dear creature I am going now to tell you, but of another cat, who forgot where she had put her kitten! Many are the tales I have been told of the careful affection with which cats hide away their little ones, but never before have I heard of a cat forgetting where she had hidden them. The particular animal of which I speak is to be found at Torquay, and belongs to a lady living there. This cat had three kittens, when one day some children called at the house. They laughed and talked and made a noise, which so frightened poor puss that she caught up one kitten and rushed upstairs with it, coming back immediately for the second, and returning as quickly as possible for the third. A little while after the visitors left, and the house being again quiet, the cat thought she would take her children downstairs again. She had put one under the sofa in her mistress's bedroom, and soon brought that one back; the second she had hidden elsewhere in the room, and she trotted in with that likewise; and then she ran upstairs, for the third. But she had entirely forgotten where to look for it, and she became so puzzled and anxious that she uttered piercing cries to call some one to come and help her. Her kind mistress hunted about, and tried to help the unhappy cat, who showed in every way a cat could how wretched she was. She went about crying piteously and searching in every corner of the house. Her mistress opened her drawers, her cupboards, looked behind curtains, but

no kitten was to be seen, and the poor mother cat grew quite bewildered, and knew no more where to look than the lady. At last, hours afterwards, her mistress thought that by some chance a large wardrobe in her room might have been opened, and that the lost kitten might be there, for she imagined a very faint cry sounded from inside. The door was immediately opened, and there, indeed, was the tiny creature, very weak and cold from being shut up without food or warmth. It turned out that the lady's-maid had happened to open the wardrobe for a moment, and the cat, unnoticed, must have rushed in and laid down her kitten. When the wardrobe was shut, she no longer recognised the place.

M. A.

THE DOG AND THE SHEEP-STEALER.

Many years ago a large amount of loss was experienced by the farmers living on both sides of the River Tweed, in consequence of sheep-stealers carrying off their sheep at night. From the farm on which my grandfather lived several sheep had been stolen at intervals—those intervals becoming unhappily shorter—until my grandfather was quite at his wits' end what to do. One morning, on visiting the fat sheep, he found, to his grief, that another had been killed on the field, the thieves leaving skin, head, and other parts, so as to prevent detection. Ruminating over the scene, he was surprised to see that Hemp, his clever and faithful dog, quickly started across the field, evidently following a scent, for there was no visible track. My grandfather followed, and was greatly astonished to find himself led to the house of his next-door neighbour, when Hemp, putting his muzzle to the door, gave an angry snarl. Grandfather, being more astonished than ever at the issue, went back to the field in which the sheep had been slaughtered, with the dog, when Hemp went through the same performance, with the last part more fully carried out. My grandfather then went and consulted the laird, and it was resolved to obtain a warrant for the purpose of searching the house. Nothing could be seen, however, in the dwelling until the bed was removed—the old box-bed then in use on the Border and in Scotland—when it was found that in the clay floor, so common in those days, was dug a hole, in which was placed a tub to contain the stolen mutton. Two kinds of mutton were found in the tub, and it was proved that the sheep had been taken from two flocks. The hind was tried at Durham, and sentenced to seven years' transportation. After his return he one day met my grandfather, and thanked him for the kindness he did him in stopping the beginning of what might have been a course of crime. He might also have thanked the sagacious dog.

B. W.

Varieties.

MILITARY VETERANS.—Soon after the 63rd anniversary of Waterloo in June, 1878, General Henry Thompson, late of the Bengal Cavalry, died in his 99th year. He was not only the oldest officer of the Indian Army, but the sole survivor of Lord Lake's gallant army which, on the 1st November, 1803, won the hard-fought (though now nearly forgotten) battle of Leswaree. In this action the 8th Hussars and the 27th and 29th Dragoons, and also the 76th Foot, greatly distinguished themselves. A correspondent of the "Times" mentions that one survivor of Assaye, which was fought in 1803, remains in the person of Lieutenant Francis Clanville, late 19th Dragoons. There are still two older soldiers on our lists—viz., General L.

A. During, who entered the army in November, 1795, unquestionably the "father" of the British Army, and who wears the Peninsular medal with seven clasps, and Lieutenant David Scott, late of the 7th Royal Veteran Battalion, who actually served with Abercrombie's army in Egypt as a private soldier, and who was also present at the capture of Martinique and at Albuera. Besides General During and Lieutenant Scott, about 88 officers are known to be still living who served in the Peninsular War. Field-Marshal Sir William Rowan, K.C.B., ensign of the 52nd in 1803, died this summer, aged 90. Field-Marshal Sir Charles York, K.C.B., is now the oldest survivor of the famous 52nd, and next to him Captain John Dobbs, an ensign in 1808. Another 52nd veteran, the Rev. J. Leake, died this year, who carried the 52nd colours at Waterloo. Among the officers long retired from the army, one of the most notable is Lord William Lennox, who was an aide-de-camp of Wellington at Waterloo when a boy of fifteen, and is still hale and active.

SIR FRANCIS GRANT AND THE KEEPER AT KILGRASTON.—One of Bishop Ewing's favourite stories was that of the Bull of Kilgraston, which, we are told, he was never tired of quoting when preaching the duty of "facing boldly either hazardous duties or questions which involve in their solution apparently perilous issues." The story runs thus: "When a celebrated living artist was in one of his younger days fishing in a river which ran through his father's property, the gamekeeper, who was in attendance, recommended him to try a pool in an adjoining field. In this particular field, however, a formidable-looking bull was grazing, and the fisherman expressed some doubt as to the safety of acting on the suggestion. Immediately, however, the keeper, without saying a word, clambered over the intervening paling, and, courageously advancing to the brute, struck him a blow on the nose with the butt end of his dog-whip. The bull forthwith turned tail and scampered off. On his return to the fisherman, the keeper quietly said, "'Deed, Mr. Frank, folks are jist spilin' thae bulls by bein' frightened at them.'"—*Ross's Life of Bishop Ewing.*

MAJOR ANDRÉ AND THE DUKE OF YORK.—The Rev. Dr. Hoës, of Kingston, N.Y., called upon us, having with him a very remarkable snuff-box. Its history is this: The Duke of York in the year 1821 came to this country for the purpose of removing the bones of Major André from Tappan to Westminster Abbey, England. Going up the Hudson River to Tappan, he was received by the Rev. Mr. Demarest, pastor of the Dutch Church, who gave him all necessary aid in the work of finding, raising, and removing the bones. Over the grave a cedar-tree was growing, which tree was also taken away. After his return to England the Duke caused to be made a beautiful gold snuff-box, enclosed in a box wrought out of the wood of the cedar-tree, showing a bullet that had been imbedded in the wood. Inside of the golden lid is this inscription:—

From
His Royal Highness,
The Duke of York,
To mark his sense
of the Rev'd John Demarest's
Liberal Attention
upon the occasion of the removal
of the Remains of the Late
Major John André,
At Tappan,
on the 10th August
1821.

—*New York Observer.*

WHAT BECOMES OF ALL THE PINS?—What becomes of all the pins? It is now as much as forty years since the daily supply of pins from the English factories was twenty millions, and ever since that time the daily average has been steadily increasing, till it now stands at fifty millions every day. Notwithstanding all this enormous supply, one can hardly be in the company of man, woman, or child for a day without being asked, "Have you such a thing as a pin about you?" Of our daily 50,000,000 pins, Birmingham produces 37,000,000, leaving 13,000,000 as the production of London, Stroud, and Dublin, where pins are also made. The weight of wire consumed annually in the pin manufacture of England is about 1,275½ tons, or 2,857,120 lb., one-eighth of which is iron wire, used in manufacturing mourning and hair pins. The brass wire consumed amounts to 2,500,000 lb., which, at 11d. per lb. in money value, reaches the sum of £114,583. The iron wire consumed is 344,800 lb., its value £7,183 6s. 6d., and to be added to these amounts are the wages, paper, and ornamental envelopes, boxes, wear and tear of machinery, manufacturers' profits, and the like, bringing the whole amount to not less than £200,000.